

341

Empire State

ARCHITECT



MAY-JUNE 1943
VOLUME III NUMBER III

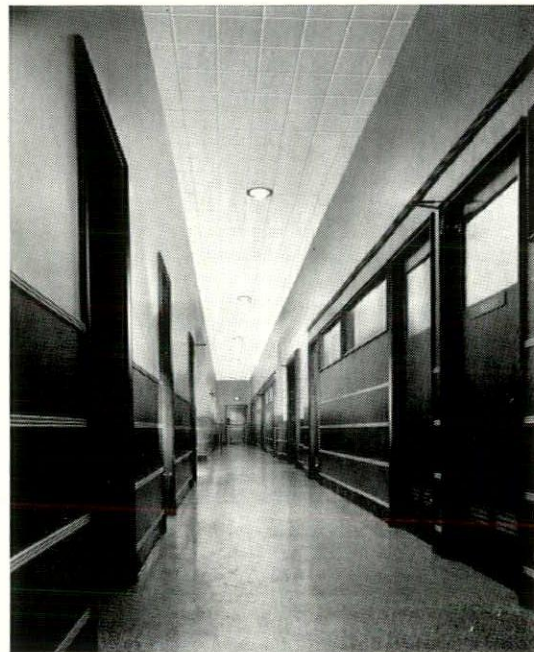
ANNUAL MEETING OF THE A. I. A.
ANNOUNCEMENTS
TEST PLANT No. 5
PREFABRICATION
AMONG THE CONSTITUENTS

GOLD BOND ACOUSTICAL MATERIALS

*reduce noise . . . increase efficiency
at Curtiss-Wright*



CONFERENCE ROOM

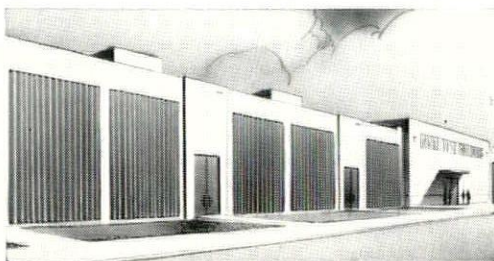


TYPICAL CORRIDOR

AT the Curtiss-Wright Airplane Division in Buffalo, they've just completed one of the most modern aeronautical research laboratories in the world. It's a marvel of design for its purpose, and National Gypsum is proud that Gold Bond Acoustical materials were chosen to sound condition offices, workrooms and corridors.

Gold Bond Econacoustic, which was used on this job, is available now for all types of military and essential civilian buildings where noise reduction is desirable.

ANOTHER WAR USE OF GOLD BOND ACOUSTICAL MATERIALS. The roar of airplane engines being tested would disturb work and rest of people for miles around if test stacks were not sound conditioned. Many of these interesting new engine test buildings are sound-insulated with Gold Bond Acoustimetal-B.



BUILD BETTER WITH
Gold Bond
Everything - for walls & ceilings

More than 150 different products for
MODERN CONSTRUCTION
AND WAR PRODUCTION
WALLBOARD...LATH...PLASTER...LIME
METAL PRODUCTS...WALL PAINT
INSULATION...SOUND CONTROL

WRITE TODAY FOR COMPLETE DATA AND
TECHNICAL INFORMATION

NATIONAL GYPSUM COMPANY . . EXECUTIVE OFFICES, BUFFALO, N. Y.

21 Plants from Canada to the Gulf . . . Sales offices in principal cities

ANNUAL MEETING OF THE A. I. A.

CINCINNATI, OHIO—MAY 26, 27, and 28, 1943

An Annual Meeting of the American Institute of Architects is not merely an event—it is an Experience. To meet and breathe the same air with the wise heads, the stout hearts and the eager imaginations among the profession is exhilarating and energizing, and one returns to his own small affairs with a high sense of privilege, purpose and power. The 75th Annual Meeting, just concluded in Cincinnati, brought together 195 voting delegates (21 more than last year), representing 61 out of 72 Chapters, and 13 out of 22 State Associations, plus many other members and guests. They were informed by President Shreve in his opening statement that the total number of corporate members has grown from 3,145 in September, 1941, to 3,768, which, with the number of non-Institute members in the affiliated State Associations, comprises a total constituency of 6,143, an all-time high, and a measurable approach toward the ideal of ultimate complete unification.

The solid meat of the program was spiced with the sauce of good fellowship which pervaded the foyers and meeting rooms, permeated the two informal luncheons, the President's Reception, the Reception by the Architects' Society of Ohio, and the Cincinnati Chapter, the Annual Dinner, the tour of the city, and the entertainment planned especially for the ladies. The climax of this feature of the meeting was reached at the Annual Dinner, under the witching spell of quite the most extraordinary College Glee Club performance many of us had ever witnessed. Twenty-four lovely, white-clad girls and twelve personable boys, constituting the Glee Club of the University of Cincinnati, under amazing leadership, produced a program of thoroughly enjoyable music that brought the diners to their feet time and again howling for more. It was not only the thrilling quality of their singing, it was the manner in which they gave themselves so entirely to the direction of their inspired leader, the perfect unity of performance, and the exuberant charm of the dear kids that won us so completely. After that, the urbanity of the President, the graceful wit of Louis La Beaume, the agreeable wisdom of Councilman Russell Wilson of Cincinnati, fell upon delighted ears. The evening was rounded to repletion by the elevation to Fellowship of twelve members, including Edgar Williams, Frederick Frost, Sr., and Arthur Holden of New York, and Lemuel Dillenback of Syracuse, members of the New York State Association, by the bestowal of life membership upon retiring Secretary Charles Ingham, who has served so faithfully for nine years, honorary membership to J. T. Frary, West Virginia, and Richard F. Bach, New York City, and honorary corresponding membership to Carlos Centurius of Mexico.

Of the formal sessions of the meeting, the opening period on Wednesday surveyed the scene; the afternoon period, presided over by F. H. Bosworth, Jr., of Ithaca, sat in sackcloth and ashes listening to the shortcomings of the profession; the Thursday morning session revived our faith and hope, which continued to rise through the afternoon period, as, under the able and constructive leadership of Vice-President Walter MacCornack, the great forward-looking plans and specifics of the Post-War Reconstruction Committee, appointed by action of the Seventy-fourth Annual Meeting, were unfolded and documented by the testimony of groups in many parts of the country, providing altogether the most vitally important and rewarding day's program this reporter ever attended. The single session Friday brought forth discussion and legislative action on the business of the meeting, and saw the new officers and directors seated as the gavel fell *sine die*.

On Wednesday evening there was held the Annual Conference of the State Associations, presided over, in lieu of Captain Matt del Gaudio, the State Association Director, by former director, J. Frazier Smith, with his "best rebel accent." Well and perseveringly attended until a late hour, the Conference finally agreed upon a resolution which was presented to the Annual Meeting Friday morning. As usual, only one topic of the agenda was dealt with—Unification, a token of the earnest desire on the part of all of us for the accomplishment of that ideal in fact.

As to the business of the meeting, the Board of Directors reported under headings:

(1) *The Architect and Governmental Relations.* Each Chapter and State Association is requested to cooperate promptly with Roy Larson's Committee to establish favorable personal contacts with the National legislators. Este Fisher, the Washington Representative, urges that individuals take every opportunity to impress upon their friends in official positions the disadvantages of public works design and construction by bureaus of the Government.

(2) *Architectural Education.* The Board feels a greater responsibility than heretofore assumed in helping schools establish effective curricula, and mentions increasing emphasis on engineering and construction.

(3) *Unification.* The Board states its judgment "that the ideal of unification is that the American Institute of Architects be the national organization of all qualified architects of good character in the United States, formed into State Association consisting of one or more Chapters of corporate members of the Institute. Where only one Chapter exists, it shall function as the State Association." The recent increase in the number of State Associations, and in the number of corporate members of the Institute is splendid evidence of progress toward the consummation of this ideal. Impatience with the rate of progress was evidenced, however, and the delegates recommended that the Unification Committee be augmented to effect equal representation of corporate members and State Association members.

(4) *Civilian Defense.* The Board recommends that architects place before their respective communities information concerning shelters immunized against gas, and methods of dealing with incendiary bombs, and that protection from air attack be not overlooked in the design of future buildings.

(5) *Registration.* Bill Kaelber's committee urges uniform conformance in all States to the requirements of the National Council of Architectural Registration Boards' syllabus as a minimum standard in examinations. It stresses the importance of maintaining a high standard of personnel of registration boards.

(6) *Finances.* President Shreve and Treasurer Ashton may take great pride in the Board's report that by reason of income from increased membership and rigid economies effected, the net operating gain for the past year was \$22,478.85. Loans and withdrawals from the Emergency Fund and the Waide Fund have been fully repaid. Solicitations for the "War Chest" have yielded to date \$31,753.76. The Special Funds total approximately \$750,000.00, one-third of which is invested in war bonds.

(7) *State and Municipal Public Works.* Jim Kideney's committee charts the course we must follow in demonstrating the superiority of the service of the private architect over that of State and municipal public works departments. Connecticut has shown the way.

Continued on Page 8

Empire State Architect

THE OFFICIAL PUBLICATION
THE NEW YORK STATE ASSOCIATION OF ARCHITECTS

May-June Issue—Vol. III, No. III

Application for entry as second-class matter pending.

Published bi-monthly.

Subscription price: 50c per year.

Non-Members \$1.00

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

- President*.....Charles R. Ellis, Syracuse Society of Arch.
606 City Bank Building, Syracuse, N. Y.
- Vice-President*....Wm. G. Kaelber, Central N. Y. Chapter, A.I.A.
Rochester Society of Architects
311 Alexander Street, Rochester, N. Y.
- Vice-President*....Louis Booth, Mid-Hudson Valley Soc. of Arch.
54 Market Street, Poughkeepsie, N. Y.
- Vice-President*.....George B. Hall, Westchester County Soc. of Arch.
141 Parkway Rd., Bronxville, N. Y.
- Treasurer*.....Maxwell A. Cantor, Brooklyn Soc. of Arch.
443 East 5th Street, Brooklyn, N. Y.
- Secretary*.....John T. Briggs, N. Y. Society of Architects
101 Park Avenue, New York, N. Y.
- George A. Boehm.....Westchester County Soc. of Arch.
2 W. 45th Street, New York, N. Y.
- Matthew W. Del Gaudio.....N. Y. Society of Arch.
545 Fifth Avenue, New York, N. Y.
- Merton E. Granger.....Syracuse Society of Architects
Foote Building, Syracuse, N. Y.
- Adolph Goldberg.....Brooklyn Chapter, A.I.A.
164 Montague Street, Brooklyn, N. Y.
- James Wm. Kideney.....Buffalo Chapter, A.I.A.
293 Summer Street, Buffalo, N. Y.
- William Tilden Koch.....Bronx Society of Arch.
3131 Hull Avenue, New York, N. Y.
- August Lux.....Albany Chapter, A.I.A.
6 Elmwood Street, Albany, N. Y.
- Albert A. Rumschik.....Western N. Y. Society of Arch.
488 Eggert Road, Buffalo, N. Y.
- Charles C. Platt.....New York Chapter, A.I.A.
221 West 57th Street, New York, N. Y.
- Otto A. Staudt.....Long Island Society of Architects
112-37 203rd Street, Hollis, N. Y.
- William C. Stohldreier.....Westchester Chapter, A.I.A.
Peoples Bank Building, White Plains, N. Y.
- Sidney L. Strauss.....Queens Society of Architects
41 Union Square, New York, N. Y.
- Maurice G. Uslan.....Staten Island Soc. of Arch.
26 Bay Street, Staten Island, N. Y.

EDITORIAL BOARD

- | | | |
|------------------|--------------------|-----------------------|
| Wm. G. Kaelber | Lorimer Rich | Charles R. Ellis |
| L. C. Dillenback | H. R. Sleeper | Louis Levine |
| Hugh Ferriss | Kenneth Reid | Fred'k. G. Frost, Sr. |
| F. J. Woodbridge | Geo. A. Boehm | Sidney L. Strauss |
| Talbot F. Hamlin | William Lescaze | James W. Kideney |
| Harry Halverson | George B. Cummings | Ralph E. Winslow |

Address all communications regarding the State Association to the Secretary, John T. Briggs, 101 Park Avenue, New York, N. Y., all editorial comments to Empire State Architect c/o the Editorial Board, 606 City Bank Bldg., Syracuse, N. Y., and inquiries regarding advertising to the Publisher.

Publisher — Julian L. Kahle, 232 Anderson Place, Buffalo, New York.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

SAFETY IN HOUSING

Pursuant to the request of B. R. Richards of the Division of Public Health Education of the State Health Department, and in accordance with a recent communication to the Directors of the New York State Association of Architects which was acted upon favorably, announcement here appears of a General Chairman and the Chairmen and members of the committees from the several constituent organizations of the New York State Association of Architects to a Sub-Committee on Safety in Housing under an Advisory Committee on Farm and Home Safety.

General Chairman: Edgar I. Williams.

Albany Chapter, A.I.A.: August Lux, Chairman; Giles van der Bogert.

Bronx Society of Architects: Samuel A. Hertz.

Brooklyn Chapter, A.I.A.: Adolph Goldberg, Chairman; Maxwell A. Cantor, Raymond Irrera.

Brooklyn Society of Architects: Maxwell A. Cantor, Chairman; Assemblyman Alfred A. Lama, Martyn Weinstein.

Buffalo Chapter, A.I.A.: David Crane, Chairman; Roswell E. Pfohl, Harry F. Hudson.

Central New York Chapter, A.I.A.: Committee of the Whole: D. Kenneth Sargent, Chairman; Charles H. Conrad, Fred B. O'Connor. Auburn, Wallace P. Beardsley; Binghamton, George Bain Cummings; Cortland, Carl W. Clark; Elmira, H. Haskell; Ithaca, Arthur N. Gibb; Utica, Egbert Bagg.

Long Island Society of Architects: William T. McCarthy, Chairman; Wellington H. Spaulding, John E. Cahill.

Mid-Hudson Valley Society of Architects: Harry Halverson, Chairman.

New York Chapter, A.I.A.: Edgar I. Williams, Chairman; Lorimer Rich.

New York Society of Architects: Robert Teichman, Chairman; John T. Briggs, Adolph Goldberg.

Queens Society of Architects: Sidney L. Strauss, Chairman; Joseph Unger.

Rochester Society of Architects: Clarence A. Damuth, Chairman; Leonard A. Waasdorp, Cyril T. Tucker.

Staten Island Society of Architects: Chester E. Cole, Chairman.

Syracuse Society of Architects: Paul Hueber, Chairman; Walter Taylor, Frederick S. Webster.

Westchester Chapter, A.I.A.: Robert H. Scannell, Chairman.

Westchester County Society of Architects: Charles A. Dewey, Chairman; Otto J. Gette, Phillips Brooks Nichols.

Western New York Society of Architects: Same as Buffalo Chapter, A.I.A.

For further information until the report of the meeting of the Committee to be held in Syracuse on June 3rd, 1943, you are referred to Page Eight of the March-April issue of the *Empire State Architect*.

RICH RESIGNS

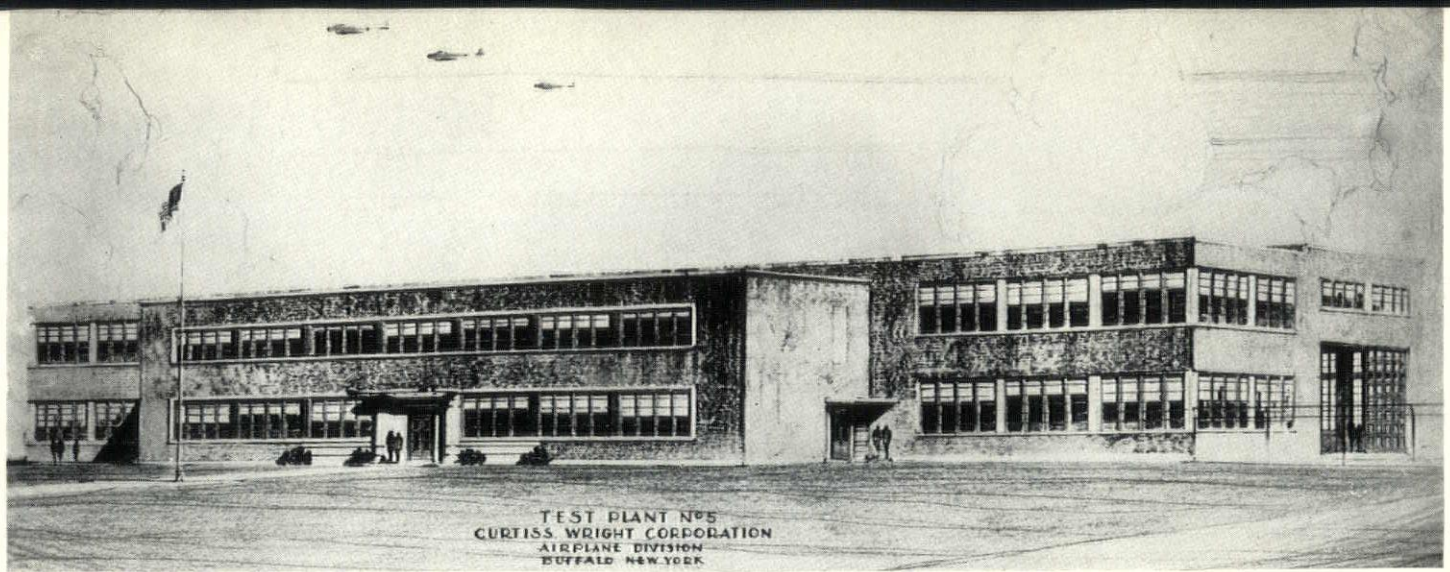
It is with regret that we announce the resignation of Lorimer Rich as Director to the New York Association of Architects from the New York Chapter, A.I.A.

'43 CONVENTION

In compliance with the all-out war effort in conserving oil, gasoline, rubber and rail transportation for movement of Army and Navy personnel and equipment, your Directors voted at a regular meeting held in New York on April 10, 1943, to postpone the 1943 Convention until after the duration, when Buffalo will be your host. The Terminal City has again extended the 1942 invitation to the next Convention — if and when.

CHARLES ROCKWELL ELLIS,

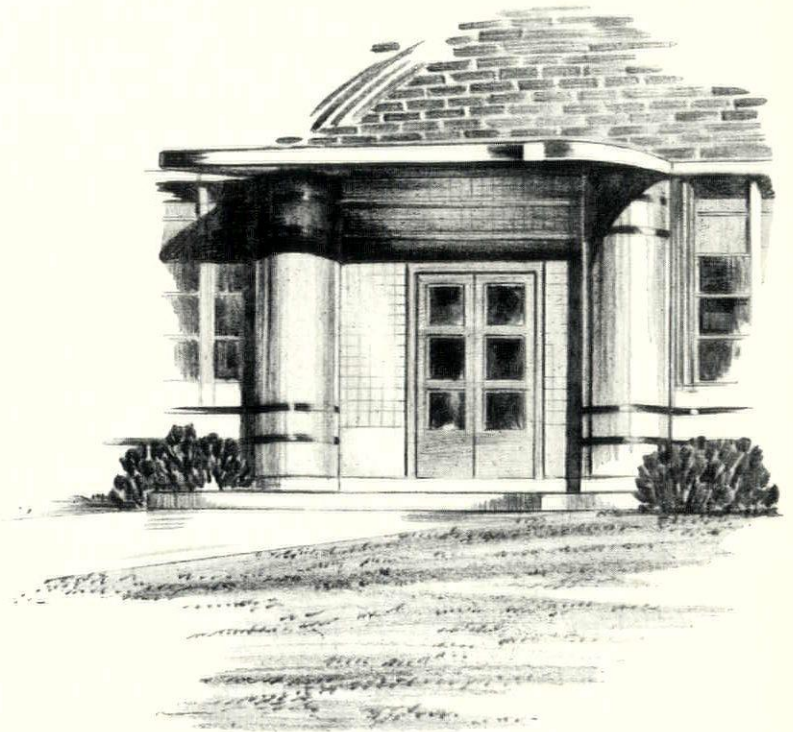
EMPIRE STATE ARCHITECT



TEST PLANT No. 5

CURTISS-WRIGHT
CORPORATION

DUANE LYMAN
AND
ASSOCIATES
Architects



ENTRANCE

The plans and structural design of this new addition to the main New York State Plant was dictated by requirements for research activities. A two-story craneway was necessary for the testing of parts of large planes. A complicated system of floor levels was needed for the operation and testing of model airplanes. Yet, each of these activities had to be inter-related and tie in with a future Wind Tunnel and Power Area now being constructed. Shortage of critical materials forced the structural design to reinforced concrete beam and slab and flat slab construction. Due to the peculiar demands of this building, some very unusual and outstanding concrete framing was designed.

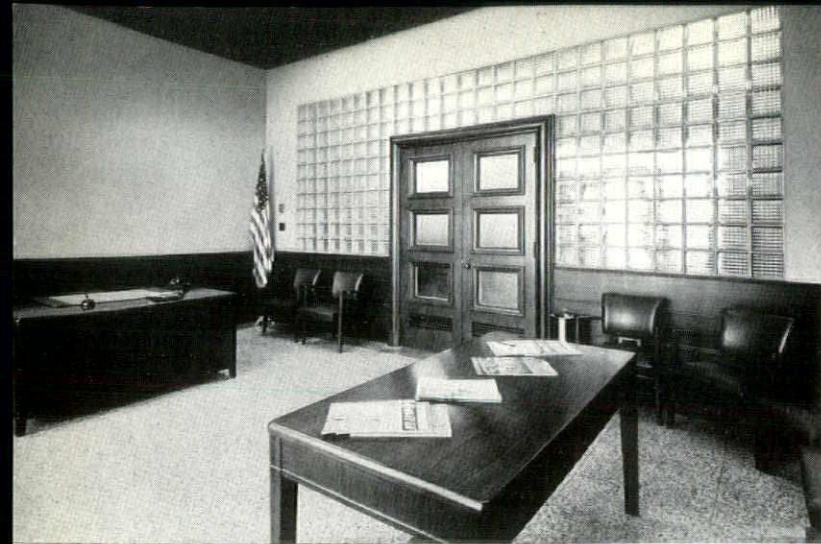
The architectural design is functional. As the building had to be relatively low for its length the horizontal design was stressed. The two-story office section on the front is in itself a unit but ties in directly with the higher two-story laboratory proper. The horizontal bands of windows in both the office and laboratory sections meet the requirement for an abundance of light. The horizontal is stressed by framing the band of office windows with stone trim tying each group together. The brick used is a duplicate of that used in the main plant across Genesee Street. Indiana limestone is used for the door and window trim and coping. Reinforced concrete marquees protect each entrance and conceal lighting for the doors therein.

CURTISS-WRIGHT

Glass block was used sparingly at the main entrance and for lighting the east and west end stair halls.

The basement under the front office section only is given over to storage and physics, and connects with the first and second floors by means of stair halls at each end and center of the office section. A tunnel 8'0" x 8'0" x 340'0" long runs under Genesee Street from the main plant and enters the basement in this section. This is used for pedestrian traffic and is a means of conveying steam, air, etc., to the Laboratory.

On the first floor of the office section, the lobby occupies the center and opens directly into a corridor connecting the end stair halls and center stairs. Offices for administrative personnel and library open off this corridor on each side of the lobby, while doors on the opposite side give access to the laboratory. The west end of the laboratory is given over to testing, a two-story section made for a craneway for handling large planes from a huge door at the west end to any desired position for tests. Special steel testing supports are in this area but are designed free of the building structure. Special bolts are cast in this heavily reinforced floor for further tests. Because of its height, here also is located the altitude chamber, with the elaborate apparatus needed for its operation. In the center of the laboratory on this floor is a section for study of wood and plastics and testing. Here are located the toilets



THE FOYER



CONFERENCE ROOM

Electrical Installation

VOLKER BROS., Inc.

891 Washington St.

Buffalo, N. Y.

Carpentry - Lumber - Millwork

E. M. HAGER & SONS CO.

141 Elm Street

Buffalo, N. Y.

Lathing and Plastering

FRED SEITZ, Inc.

54 Alpine Place

Buffalo, N. Y.

Cinder Blocks

Anchor Concrete Products Inc.

1375 William St.

Buffalo, N. Y.

Acoustical Installation

THE FETCH COMPANY

236 Scajaquada St.

Buffalo, N. Y.

Inspection and Tests

Geo. S. Hallenbeck Insp. & Test Lab.

56-62 Pearl St., cor. Seneca

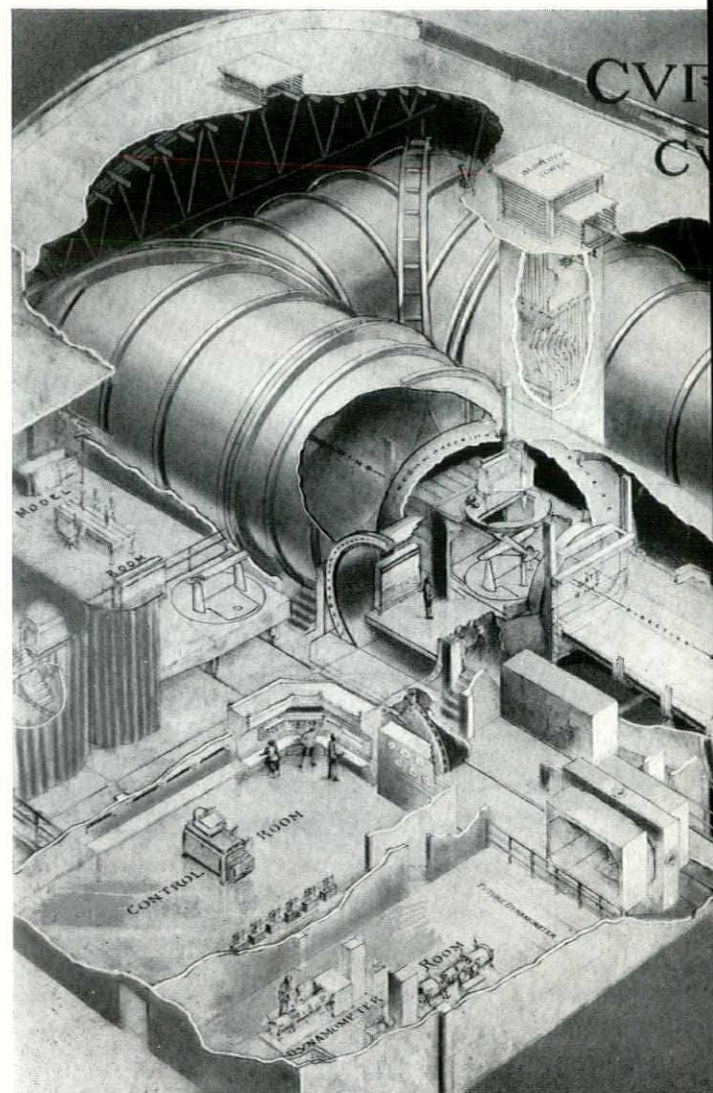
Buffalo, N. Y.

Wind Tunnel Electrical Installation

BUFFALO ELECTRIC CO., Inc.

75 W. Mohawk St.

Buffalo, N. Y.



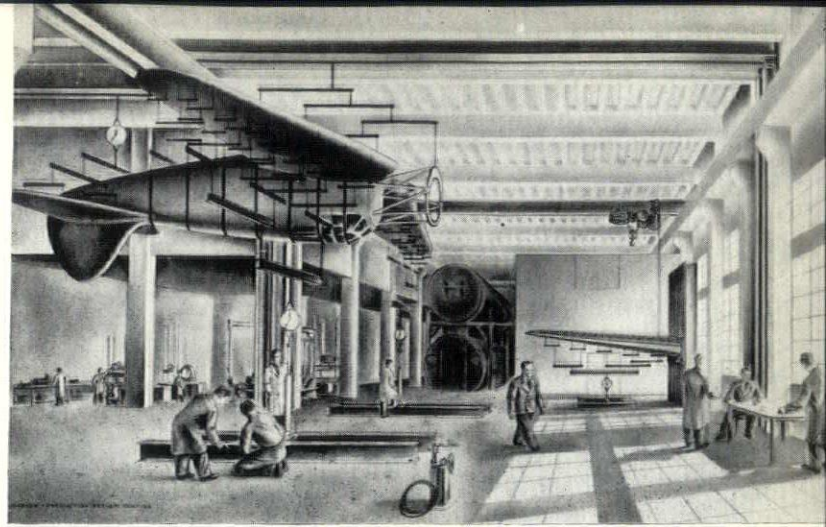
TEST PLANT No. 5

and rest rooms also accessible from the office section. The floor space on the east side is given over to model making. A covered platform occupies the east end, taking care of the shipping and receiving needs of the laboratory.

The second floor office space similar in layout to that below, houses the executive personnel. Here access to the second floor laboratory is made through the corridor. The remainder of the space on the west side laboratory section not taken by the craneway section is given over to drafting and computing. The center section contains testing laboratories while on the east side is additional space for drafting and computing. Here also is located the control room with its complicated floor and roof framing to facilitate the operation of tests in the wind tunnel. As a clear span was desired here and ease of operation of monorail system a factor, an ingenious system of concrete beam framing was worked out.

From a fan room in the center of the building over the center stair and toilet section, hot and cold air can be forced to all sections of the building.

The wind tunnel and power area at the rear of the laboratory and connected to it, are now being built. When this work is completed, the buildings will tie together in a self-contained unit serving to improve methods of air transportation.



STATIC TEST AREA

The Static Test Laboratory will test new methods of construction, aid in the development of new structural designs, and seek to eliminate causes of failure in flight and dive testing. Tests will be made of airplane structural parts and complete airplanes. This equipment will be able to accommodate a 50,000-lb. plane. Included is a roof truss designed for a 300,000-lb. load, floor hold-down bolts for jacks up to 100,000-lb. capacity loading the airplane through whiffle trees, a back stop which will take 10,000,000 inch pounds, a travelling crane of 10-ton capacity and testing machines of 400,000-lb., 120,000-lb., 60,000-lb. capacity and a 50,000-lb. fatigue testing machine.

General Contractor

SIEGFRIED CONSTRUCTION CO.

6 N. Pearl St.

Buffalo, N. Y.

Structural Steel

R. S. McMannus Steel Const. Co., Inc.

1254 E. Ferry St.

Buffalo, N. Y.

Driveways and Parking Lots

BRUNNER BROTHERS

24 Liberty Ave.

Buffalo, N. Y.

Light and Miscellaneous Iron Work

COMMUNITY STEEL CORPN.

188 Myrtle Ave.

Buffalo, N. Y.

Wind Tunnel

Roofing and Sheet Metal Work

JAMES J. DRAPER CO.

40 Appenheimer St.

Buffalo, N. Y.

Wind Tunnel

Foundation Work

McLAIN CONSTRUCTION CORP.

1209 Hertel Ave.

Buffalo, N. Y.



CONTRACTORS AND SUB-CONTRACTORS
WHO BUILT CURTISS TEST PLANT No. 5

Heating and Ventillating

JOSEPH DAVIS

70 W. Chippewa St.

Buffalo, N. Y.

Roofing -- Sheet Metal Work

MACHWIRTH BROTHERS CO.

195-211 Oak St.

Buffalo, N. Y.

Master Builder's Products

GLOBE PLASTER CO.

154 W. Huron St.

Buffalo, N. Y.

Builders' Hardware

WEED & CO.

95 Swan St.

Buffalo, N. Y.

Miscellaneous Lumber

MONTGOMERY-MALLUE, Inc.

Court and Wilkeson Sts.

Buffalo, N. Y.

Tile -- Terrazzo -- Marble

TIEDE-ZOELLER TILE CORP.

2227 Delaware Ave.

Buffalo, N. Y.

Finished Concrete Floors

THE VANNIER CO.

4100 Main St.

Buffalo, N. Y.

Ready-Mixed Concrete -- Cinders

GENESEE SAND & GRAVEL CORP.

42 Haven St.

Buffalo, N. Y.

Exterior Industrial Doors

DUSING & HUNT, Inc.

1927 Elmwood Ave.

Buffalo, N. Y.

Glass and Glazing

UNITED GLAZING CO., Inc.

255 Genesee St.

Buffalo, N. Y.

Automatic Temperature Regulation

JOHNSON SERVICE COMPANY

503 Franklin St.

Buffalo, N. Y.

ANNUAL MEETING OF A. I. A.

Continued from Page 3

(8) *Plans for a New Publication.* "To develop ways and means of changing the *Octagon* into a vital professional publication which will be of personal interest and practical value to every practicing architect, the Board has authorized the engagement of a prospective editor. In order to remove possible handicaps in a study of this matter, the Board has adopted a new Rule to the effect that advertising may be accepted by the Institute to appear in the *Octagon* or other publications, with the reservation that any such advertising must remain under the control and supervision of the Board as to its sources, character and quantity."

(9) *Committee on National Capitol.* With his impeccable diction to which we are so agreeably accustomed, Chairman Zentzinger reported the enlistment of the interest of nine kindred national societies to assist the Institute in bringing to the attention of the public the importance of the development of the city of Washington in an orderly, economic manner with full regard for aesthetic consideration. This group is attempting to secure adequate legislative support of measures to reorganize the National Capitol Park and Planning Commission so that it will clearly be the central planning agency for the District of Columbia and its environs.

(10) *Contract Documents.* The Board made grateful acknowledgment to the gracious Bostonian, William Stanley Parker, Chairman of the Committee on Contract Documents, for his service in preparing the current edition of the *Handbook of Architectural Practice*. The meeting adopted as its sense the recommendation of the Committee concerning the "or equal" clause in specifications, calling for the naming of a single standard as a basis for competitive bidding, with alternate proposals separately stated.

Other business included the introduction of various resolutions, many of them by the New York Chapter, all of which were referred to the Board and appropriate committees for consideration and action. Included were the addition of the words "and technical ability" to the second sentence of the Principles of Professional Practice; the removal of the last six words of Canon 6 of the same document; the removal of the term "exclusive of details" in the third paragraph of Article 7 of the Schedule of Charges (Document No. 177); the correlation of the work of Institute and Chapter Committees; the formation of a National Legislative Committee; representation to the Armed Forces of the particular abilities and capacity of the architect; and the present use of the Kahn bequest without waiting for the war's end.

Finally, the delegates elected Ray Ashton, President; Walter MacCormack, Vice-President; Jim Edmunds, Treasurer; Alex Robinson, Secretary; and Loring Provine, Douglas Orr and Edgar Williams, Regional Directors. Edgar Williams becomes Regional Director for New York State and Captain Matt del Gaudio continues as the State Association Director. Ralph Walker, defeated for the Secretaryship, with grace and sincerity accepted the result in good part. And the last pleasantly sentimental amenity was expressed when the old officers and Board members yielded place to the new, and Past Presidents Herrick Hammond and Steve Voorhees escorted expiring President Shreve into the limbo of "has-beens." Great honor and deep gratitude are due this man Shreve for taking the helm when our ship was in troublous waters and so successfully steering us back into the deep channel.

GEORGE BAIN CUMMINGS.

PREFABRICATION

REVIEW AND FORECAST By HAROLD R. SLEEPER

What modern business or industry can boast as many millions of dollars thrown away, with as few demonstrated cash or other rewards, as the quest for prefabrication? Hundreds of bankrupt companies, scores of lives devoted to research and experimentation, accompanied by failure, are the gist of the history of this new "Holy Grail." Then, not content to accept failure during their lifetime, men have endowed institutions to carry on their search for a solution after they die. The quest for prefabrication certainly has had a deeper incentive than that of profit.

The building industry, as a whole, has contributed little toward the development of prefabrication. Other great industries have set up organizations for research and experiment, either within their own organizations or by jointly endowing universities or laboratories. However, the huge building industry, being so loosely knit and lacking any real organization, has not, except in a few exceptional cases, attacked the problem or aided the multitude of companies and individuals who staked their all in this quest.

Yes, we have had many individual companies that have made experiments toward the fostering of the sale of their own building products by means of prefabrication. But starting with a definite material has been one of the major causes of so many failures.

The lack of interest on the part of the building industry, as a whole, has been a great handicap, especially as this problem will not be solved until new materials are found that meet the specific purposes, and until the problems of distribution and marketing are attacked by all concerned. To date it appears that the building industry, as such, has not only been negative in its reactions, but it is actually antagonistic toward a revolution in building methods and an upset in the status-quo, which might result from a solution to this problem. Fortunately, there are many interested architects, engineers, inventors, manufacturers who have been sufficiently aroused and challenged by the future possibilities of prefabrication to carry on in spite of discouragement and only minor successes.

Before analyzing the status of prefabrication today, we should perhaps interpret the term. Prefabrication began when the Mesopotamians found that they could mould and dry bricks at the clay hole, rather than use the clay for wattle walls. Our Early American settlers first felled the trees and sawed their own boards; they forged their own nails, and even made their own tools. But when sawmills were built, nails manufactured and tool manufacture started, we were on our way toward prefabrication. Articles on prefabrication speak of "conventional methods of building," as if such were devoid of any shop or factory help, when as a matter of fact there is much of the prefabricated in our customary way of building the simplest house: we have travelled a long way from the standards of the Colonial settlers.

Our goal is economically to factory-make-and-assemble to the greatest extent possible, thus minimizing both labor and time for erection in the field. Of course we still appear to perform in a primitive manner when we compare our status of industrialization with that of the automotive, radio and aeroplane industries. But there has been a reason for this great lag in catching up with these industries born within the industrial era.

To start with, building can never be one-hundred percent prefabricated, as it must, by its very nature, be wedded to the site. Secondly, the materials developed through the centuries for building are in themselves a handicap. Only recently did the "Iron Age" give us material especially suited to factory manipulation. Perhaps the age we are in—sometimes called

"The Age of Plastics"—will yield more suitable materials. Attainment of full shop fabrication awaits the development of materials combining strength, lightness, workability, economy, durability, texture, colors, as the main qualifications. Thirdly, we have to struggle against precedent in design, labor, and our methods of thinking.

We owe our thanks to the many idealists who, through the last thirty-five years, have fought for prefabrication. Their impatience with existing methods goaded them to proceed under the assumption that we could suddenly scrap our old ways at one jump and immediately arrive at full-blown prefabrication, without a terrible grinding of gears.

During the same period sure progress toward the common goal has been made by those professing no interest in prefabrication, as the term is used, but who strove to standardize elements used in building. Twenty years ago all the good architects laboriously detailed the kitchen dressers, not forgetting the tilting flour bin. Even for a small house full size details were made of medicine cabinets and for every moulding used.

Today we unquestionably accept standardized kitchen equipment, medicine cabinets, trim, fireplaces, exterior doorways, greenhouses, and a host of other items, because they have been developed by trial and error to a point where they are not only cheaper but better than if made to order for an individual case. This process of step-by-step evolvement of building products has subtly affected the building industry to an extent little realized.

Among the many items which we now accept, without appreciating that they are milestones toward eventual full prefabrication, are: radiator enclosures, prefitted frames and sash of wood, metal casements, elevator cabs, pre-finished metal doors, bucks and trim, package hearters, and a host of other gadgets. Not only do we pre-finish wood panelling but even floors may be obtained ready for use.

The development of these many items occurred as the demand and economic possibility coincided, and when they proved better, as well as more economical, than their prototypes. But such was not the case with the prefabricators, who wanted to solve all their problems at once. Who knows how much farther along the road to a successful solution they might have been had they followed the more deliberate, step-by-step method?

Full prefabrication means a large factory with maximum production. A production line for housing meets several snags which do not occur in other fully industrialized fields. The first requirement is a constant market, whereas the selling of houses has always been seasonal. In addition, because of their great weight and bulk, it is not feasible to store prefabricated houses while waiting for a sales demand.

Secondly, the cost of transportation of a prefabricated house is a real item; the plant must not be too large to serve an area in which delivery may be economically made. Because of the cost of delivery, therefore, it is not feasible to have a larger plant and a larger radius within which sales may be made. The contradiction of the need for large plants for economy, against the transportation problem limiting size of the plant, is inherent in this matter of prefabricated houses.

After the War, there will probably be business for many of the existing prefabricators: however, I hope that the new companies entering the field will look back over the development of the prefabrication industry and be content with solving the many smaller problems so greatly needed by the building industry immediately.

Continued on Page 11

AMONG THE CONSTITUENTS

by Sidney L. Strauss

SYRACUSE SOCIETY of ARCHITECTS

The Syracuse Society of Architects, under the able leadership of Prof. L. C. Dillenback as president and the splendid cooperation on the part of its members, have completed a very successful year.

A summary of activities and statistics follows:

Membership: Syracuse Society of Architects, 41 members. New York State Association of Architects, 31 members.

Attendance: Varying from 12 to 22 members.

Programs: Early in our year a series of informal talks were presented to this society by prominent professional and business men giving their frank impressions of the Architect and his part in a community. Many interesting facts were uncovered which could be helpful if needed. The guest speakers included Mr. F. Gordon Smith, business man and trustee of Syracuse University; Dr. Calvin M. Thompson, pastor and active in community planning, and Mr. George Bond, Sr., lawyer and member of the New York State Board of Regents.

A second series of lectures were presented at a later date relating to planning—Post-War and otherwise. The speakers were Dr. Raymond F. Piper, Department of Philosophy, Syracuse University. Dr. Eric Faigle, Assistant Dean and Professor of Geography, Syracuse University, and Prof. Thomas W. Mackesey, Assistant Prof. of Regional Planning, College of Architecture, Cornell University.

Other miscellaneous topics were presented by D. Jacob J. Levy, doctor; Mr. A. V. Morrison, HOLC representative; Mr. Sergei N. Grimm, director of the Syracuse Housing Authority, and others.

The final program of the year was presented by Mr. Melvin L. King at the request of this society by resolution being in the form of a questionnaire to all fellow members, dealing with the Post-War Housing situation. This questionnaire was most comprehensive and splendidly presented. Many members replied thus giving a good cross-section for thought. Mr. King climaxed his program with his own carefully executed answers and reactions.

Honors: We were highly honored in the selection of our president, Prof. L. C. Dillenback, by the American Institute of Architects in the recent fellowship award. Prof. Dillenback is most deserving of this honor. Again, we are honored also in the selection of Mr. Charles R. Ellis for president of the New York State Association of Architects. If you should question his interest in this capacity just phone him at his office in the late evening. You will find him working.

American Institute of Architects: The following candidates were elected to membership in the A.I.A. this year: Miss Helen C. Gillespie, Messrs. Thomas L. White, Charles R. Ellis, Paul B. Sweeney, and Rollin H. Burden.

ALBANY CHAPTER

The Albany Chapter of the A.I.A. held its annual meeting on May 18, 1943, in the upper reaches of Keeler's Restaurant in Albany. It was unanimously voted to continue in office the present chapter officers: President, Ralph E. Winslow, Troy; Vice-President, J. Russell White, Albany; Secretary-Treasurer, Giles Y. van der Bogert, Schenectady.

The evening was devoted to informal discussion of the status of the profession, preparation for practice, and ways and means to enhance the status of the architect. The stimulating influence of good food and drink, fine fellowship, and a strong desire for the general betterment of the profession resulted in a full evening of frank expression. C. C. Briggs of the New York Chapter was a guest and, on everyone's insistence, entered warmly into the debate.

Ralph E. Winslow was selected as delegate to the national convention at Cincinnati. Few delegates have had a better opportunity to hear the opinion of those he represented than was afforded by this meeting.

NEW YORK SOCIETY OF ARCHITECTS

A sister to the famous Dolinger and Archinal Bills in Albany has been introduced to the New York City Council.

This, as everyone knows, would prevent the private practitioner from doing any public work. This Society again is doing its bit in cooperation with other organizations in the Metropolitan area toward the desired end, which should be certain death for the measure.

The Society's Year Book for 1943 has made its appearance and, as usual, is one of the most valued possessions in the architect's office.

The Society again has given up its usual June outing due to war restrictions but the June meeting will be held instead.

The Society is taking an active interest in post-war work and has set for one of its goals recognition for the younger man.

Sam Hertz has just been elected as a director of this Society. Good luck!

QUEENS SOCIETY OF ARCHITECTS

The attendance at meetings grows larger every month and this certainly speaks for the splendid manner in which the affairs of the Society are being handled by the Board of Officers.

The Society is taking an active interest in legislative matters and all are looking forward to the time when Queens again will take its rightful place as leader in the construction field.

Our President has again fully recovered from his accident, reported in the last issue and although he has not increased in height or area, he has increased in energy.

CRETEPLANK . . .

Lightweight T AND G Concrete Plank

The ALL-WEATHER, SPEEDY roof and floor construction. No special fabrication . . . cuts and nails like wood. Stock sizes available immediately!

MARTIN FIREPROOFING CORPORATION

Washington 0175

BUFFALO, N. Y.

VIKING AUTOMATIC SPRINKLERS, Inc.

317 SIDWAY BUILDING

Tel., LAfayette 8450

Buffalo, New York

Consulting us when you are designing a building, will bring dividends through reduced insurance costs to your client.

M. B. SPOLL
President

HERMAN ULMER
Vice-President

AMONG THE CONSTITUENTS (Continued)

NEW YORK CHAPTER, A. I. A.

A large delegation from the Chapter attended the A.I.A. Convention in Cincinnati and all returned convinced that notwithstanding the fact that there was a shortage of most everything, there is no shortage of "words."

The Chapter, as usual, was the most vociferous from the resolution standpoint and all that were introduced were given consideration.

Walter R. MacCornach, Chairman of the Committee on Post-War Consideration rendered a splendid report which was of considerable interest to delegations from all over the Country.

The Chapter has just come through an election of officers with Bob O'Connor now at the helm succeeding Edgar Williams, who has now ascended to Fellowship and Regional Director in the Institute.

Frederick Frost and Arthur Holden were also honored by the Chapter at the Convention by being awarded Fellowships.

BRONX SOCIETY

This Society is joining with the others in the area in opposition to the Civil Service Bill in the New York City Council. All our members have agreed to communicate with the legislators toward the desired end; that is, defeat of the measure.

Tom Dunn at the helm keeps the meetings most interesting and enjoyable, consequently the attendance is splendid.

BROOKLYN CHAPTER A. I. A.

The Brooklyn Chapter has just elected a new Board of Officers and the very congenial Adolph Goldberg has been elected as president.

The Chapter was represented at the Cincinnati Convention by Olive Tjaden and Adolph Goldberg and it is just too bad that Olive's picture in the Cincinnati papers did not do her justice. Both delegates rendered a splendid report of the Convention's activities to the membership.

Joe Mathieu's term of office can not go by without mentioning the very splendid work he has done as Chapter president.

Your reporter had the pleasure of attending the last meeting of the Chapter and enjoyed renewing some acquaintances and meeting a fine group of men.

WESTCHESTER COUNTY SOCIETY OF ARCHITECTS

The last meeting of the Society was excellent in its attendance, notwithstanding the fact that so many of our active members have been shifted.

President Gette, loyal as he always is, presided at the meeting, after having been confined to a sick bed.

Fred Voss, our secretary, is in Brazil where his duties have called him and we trust that he will be back with us soon.

The post-war problem and unification of the profession were discussed considerably; these, after all, are important for the profession.

PREFABRICATION (Continued from page 9)

I listed several items which are now available but many others are long overdue. Why can't we have interior doorways complete with bucks, frames, saddles, doors, hardware as complete units, reducing the motions of installation from hundreds to a minimum? Wood window units have not yet reached the ultimate for speed of erection. Stairways should be shop-assembled, complete with railing, balusters and finish.

The crux of the conventional building method is the lost labor in the assembly of bathroom and kitchen. Such assembly has been developed by the prefabricators but has not yet been made available to the small builder. A real contribution toward cheaper building would be made if such were made available to all. Heating equipment has yet far to go; radiators might be incorporated in the window assembly. Panel heating must be pre-assembled in the floor construction to compare with the cost of hot-air systems.

Even though we may not at once find methods for full prefabrication, steps such as those just suggested will go far toward reducing the cost of housing. By a solution of the simpler problems first, we may then advance to those of walls, floors and roofs, which will only be solved by the industry as a whole, with the help of the chemist and other scientists who may develop materials to our specifications.

War conditions have vitally affected the prefabrication of buildings. At one swoop the heretofore baffling problem of marketing was solved. It gave orders to the industry for thousands of houses at one time. Any industry of this type can only perform when certain of a continuation of sales. Our markets, previously, had been able to offer merely hopeful prospects.

Post-war building, unless government control remains at the helm, is not likely to operate under a system of distribution which differs greatly from that used previous to the war. If such be the case, true prefabrication will have to proceed slowly, with many failures and plenty of time for experimentation by those with large enough capital and surpluses to survive. In view of the fact that economy of building is the only *raison d'être* of prefabrication, it is not prophecy to state that when it is accepted it will be economical.

Certain architects are worried lest the realization of prefabrication may hurt their practice. The benefits to accrue to a community would so outweigh this consideration that we who profess a public-spirited outlook should not even raise the point. As a matter of fact, when the millenium of prefabrication arrives, all houses will be architect-designed, whereas now our services are used only on a small minority of buildings.

NOTE: Lack of space forced postponement of publication of two excellent articles by R. CLIPSON STURGIS and MILTON MILSTEIN. These are being held for future release.

J. W. K.

BUY WAR BONDS

for Fighting Power to-day

for Your Home to-morrow

□ □ □

ANCHOR CONCRETE PRODUCTS, Inc.

1375 WILLIAM ST.

BUFFALO, N. Y.

THE FETCH COMPANY

DISTRIBUTORS

GOLD BOND ACOUSTICAL PRODUCTS

Acoustical Correction

Noise Reduction

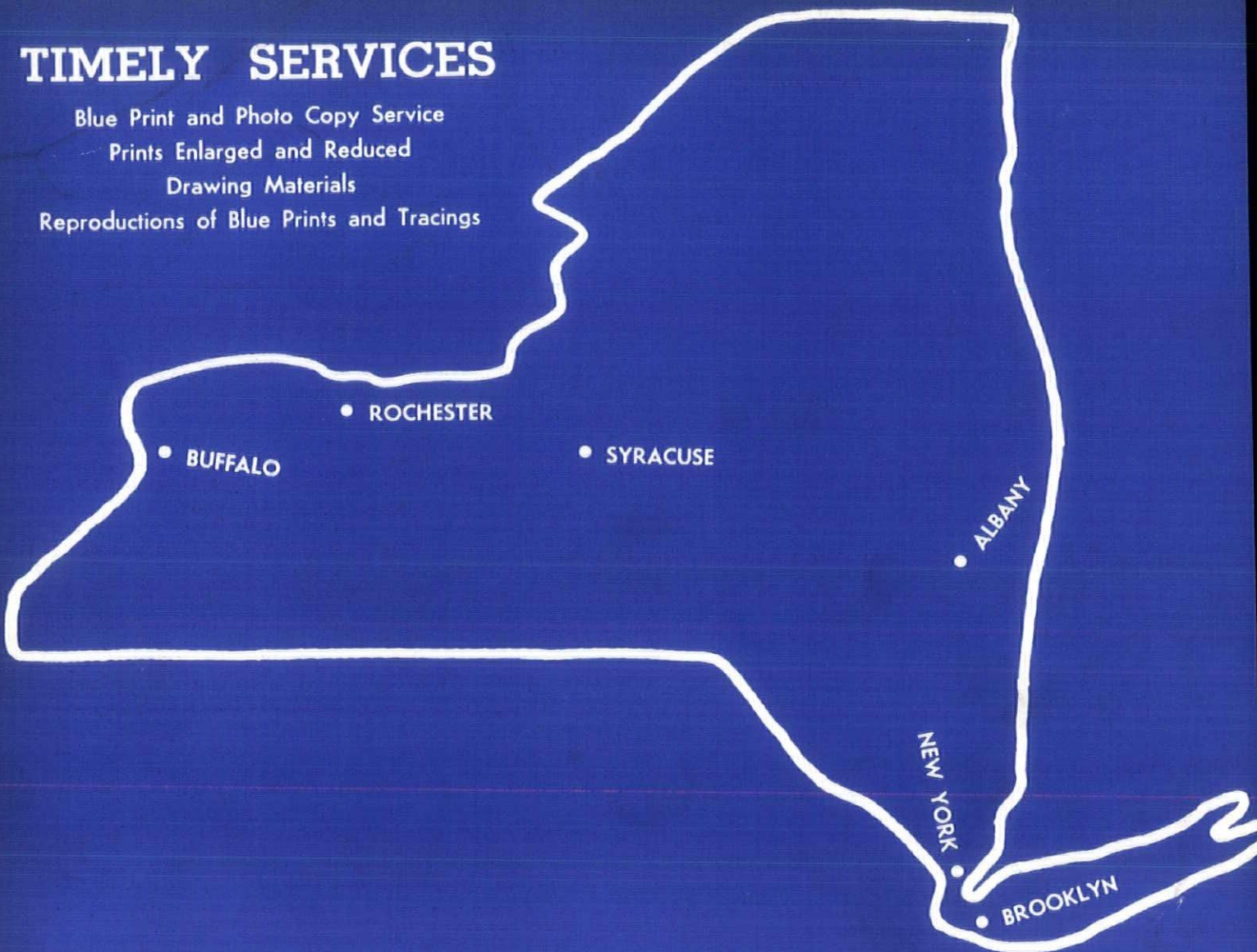
Industrial Quieting

HU. 8760

BUFFALO, N. Y.

TIMELY SERVICES

Blue Print and Photo Copy Service
Prints Enlarged and Reduced
Drawing Materials
Reproductions of Blue Prints and Tracings



The following concerns located in the key cities shown on the outline map above offer a high-grade reproduction and photo copy service especially for architects and builders.

NEW YORK

ROYAL
BLUE PRINT CO., INC.
Vanderbilt 6-3563 415 Lexington Ave.

ROCHESTER

CITY BLUE PRINT CO.
W. F. Schock
Phone Stone 6480 Six Atlas Street

H. H. SULLIVAN, INC.
William W. Schwan, Mgr.
Phone Stone 550 67 South Avenue

BUFFALO

BUFFALO BLUE PRINT CO.
L. J. Marquis, Jr., Owner-Manager
Phone CL. 0370 35 Court Street

SULLIVAN-McKEEGAN CO., INC.
R. K. McKeegan
Phone CL. 4400 17 E. Swan Street

COMMERCIAL BLUE PRINT CO.
Geo. G. Merry
Phone CL. 0815 White Building

WILDER PHOTO COPY CO.
GEORGE BURNS
Phone WA. 5611 451 Main Street

SYRACUSE

H. H. SULLIVAN, INC.
R. C. Howard
Phone 3-8159 213 E. Genesee Street

SYRACUSE ELECTRIC BLUE PRINT CO.
A. B. Nye, Prop.
Phone 2-4714 349 E. Onondaga Street